

Secretary Jennifer Johnson
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20551

Dear Secretary Johnson,

As a small business owner, I know that times have been tough for all of us. This year, things are starting to look up. In my flower shop, holidays are the bulk of my business and this Valentine's Day, customers seemed to spend a little more money. The fact that the Federal Reserve has proposed to cap swipe fees is also very promising to business owners like me.

My annual swipe fees average about \$10,000. Very few customers carry cash anymore, so this number is only expected to rise. Any opportunity for a business owner to increase cash flow is good. It helps to maintain our credibility, as well as invest more in our business, so that we have more to offer our customers and have the potential to expand. A cap on interchange fees is one way of helping businesses to achieve this.

For the past twenty years, I have owned Plantasia Floral and Gift Shop. We have been extremely lucky and are still surviving. It helps that we are the only florist in town. However, being in a small town can also be a challenge. Small businesses deserve some financial relief from the expenses we pay. Placing a cap on swipe fees will help to relieve some of that financial burden we have all been faced with. We look forward to your continued efforts in this matter.

Best,



Anne Blake

Anne Blake
Plantasia Florist & Gift Shop
476 Main St
Bolton, MA 01740-1441